



Cha Cha Cha stamp.*

American Diversity: Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebration of Hispanic-American Heritage

By Louise Fenner
Staff Writer

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region.

Washington — Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, honors the diverse people of Spanish-speaking backgrounds in the United States — those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Special programs, events, exhibits and websites celebrate the culture, traditions and extraordinary contributions of the 48.4 million Hispanics who constitute the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the United States, according to the Census Bureau. In addition, there are about 4 million residents of Puerto Rico, a Caribbean U.S. territory.

The Hispanic population is projected to nearly triple to almost 133 million by 2050, and will jump from 16 percent to 30 percent of the U.S. population. Two-thirds of Hispanic-origin people in the United States are of Mexican background. Next in line are people of Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran and Dominican backgrounds.

THE STORY OF AMERICA ITSELF
Today, more than ever, Hispanic Americans play an integral role in shaping the American experience. Hispanics serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and in two Cabinet posts (Labor and Interior). The influence of Hispanic culture is reflected in every aspect of American life, from politics to education, music and television.

"The story of Hispanics in America is

At more than 52 million strong, including 4 million in Puerto Rico, Hispanics constitute the country's largest and fastest growing minority group. They have had a profound and positive impact on our country through, among other things, their community's strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.... Our country was built on and continues to thrive on its diversity, and there is no doubt that the future of the United States is inextricably linked to the future of the Hispanic community.

— President Obama, October 19, 2010

the story of America itself," says President Obama. "The Hispanic community's values — love of family, a deep and abiding faith, and a strong work ethic — are America's values."

The president says that Hispanics have served with honor and distinction in the armed services and have enriched U.S. culture in every arena, "from sports to the sciences and from the arts to our economy."

The Census Bureau, for example, reports that there are more than 2.3 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States. That number jumped 43.6 percent between 2002 and 2007. In the United States, Hispanic buying power is growing faster than that of non-Hispanics.

HONORING HISPANIC CULTURE

The celebration of Hispanic heritage began on a national scale in 1968 with a weeklong celebration. The designated week was selected to coincide with Independence Day celebrations on September 15 in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras and Nicaragua, September 16 in Mexico and September 18 in Chile. In 1988, President Reagan approved a law expanding the celebration to a month, running from September 15 to October 15.

In addition to community events, a number of U.S. government agencies celebrate the month with special events and projects.

Source: <http://goo.gl/YzxGD>

Related links:

- President Obama Proclamation : <http://goo.gl/XkkeD>
- Winning the Future: President Obama and Hispanic Community: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/hispanic>
- Hispanic Heritage Month from the Library of Congress <http://goo.gl/NieVh>
- Smithsonian Latino Center: <http://latino.si.edu/>
- Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month with the National Park Service: <http://goo.gl/2NW3G>

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U.S. Hispanic Profile 2011– U.S. Census Bureau

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week, which was observed during the week that included Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. The observance was expanded in 1988 by Congress to a month long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), effective the following year. America celebrates the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

Population

50.5 million is the number of Hispanic population of the United States as of April 1, 2010. This number is making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority. Hispanics constituted 16.3 percent of the nation's total population. In addition, there are 3.7 million residents of Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory.

States and Counties

14 million is the population of the Hispanic-origin population that lived in California in 2010, up from 11 million in 2000.

16 is the number of states with at least a half-million Hispanic residents — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Businesses

2.3 is the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in 2007, up 43.7 percent from 2002.

\$345.2 billion receipts generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2007, up 55.5 percent from 2002.

30.0% is the percentage of Hispanic-owned businesses in the construction and the other services sectors; 50.8 percent of the receipts of Hispanic-owned businesses were concentrated in wholesale trade, construction and retail trade.

Families and Children

10.4 million is the number of Hispanic family households in the United States in 2010.

Spanish Language

35 million is the number of U.S. residents 5 and older who spoke Spanish at home in 2009. Those who *hablan español* constituted 12 percent of U.S. residents. More than half of these Spanish speakers spoke English "very well."

Education

1 million is the number of Hispanics 18 and

older with advanced degrees in 2010 (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate).

Jobs

68% is the percentage of Hispanics or Latinos 16 and older who were in the civilian labor force in 2009.

Income

\$38,039 is the median income of Hispanic households in 2009.

Voting

9.7 million is the number of Hispanic citizens who reported voting in the 2008 presidential election, about 2 million more than voted in 2004. The percentage of Hispanic citizens voting went from 47 percent in 2004 to 50 percent in 2008.

Serving the United States

1.1 million is the number of Hispanics or Latinos 18 and older who are veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Complete statistic facts are available at:

<http://goo.gl/NiUf3>

Related Links:

- Status and Trends in the Education of Hispanics: <http://goo.gl/q3b6i>
- Various studies and polling on American Hispanic from Pew Hispanic Center: <http://pewhispanic.org/>

Prominent Hispanics in America

Hispanic names can be found in any survey of prominent U.S. Politics, U.S. writers, painters, sculptors, actors, singers, filmmakers, fashion designers and athletes. These men and women are inspired by the complexity and richness of their American experience combined with their Latin American roots.

POLITICS

Latinos fill several top positions in the U.S. government, including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.



Sonia Sotomayor

Nearly 12 percent of President Obama's nominees for senior administration positions are Latinos, more than those of any other president. In addition, there are 25 Hispanics in the U.S. Congress and more than 5,600 Hispanic state and local elected officials. In the 2008 presidential election, Latinos cast ballots in record numbers — nearly 10 million. They comprised 7.4 percent of all voters in 2008, up from 6 percent in 2004.

ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE



Jennifer Lopez

Hispanic-American musicians are a lively part of U.S. popular culture, performing in a broad range of genres — from pop, rock, and rap to salsa, Latin jazz and reggaeton. Some well-known performers and groups include Christina Aguilera, Marc

Anthony, Gloria Estefan, Jennifer Lopez, Ricky Martin, Ozomatli and Carlos Santana.

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More Resources

Articles

Schneider, Kristin and Schneider, Pablo.
HACR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF HISPANIC INCLUSION (Latino Leaders. July-August 2011, p28).

In May 2011, HACR celebrated its 25th anniversary in Washington DC. For the last 25 years, the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR) has played a key national leadership role in advocating for advancing Hispanic inclusion in Corporate America in the areas of governance, employment, procurement, Philanthropy and governance. For details on HACR, please visit <http://www.hacr.org/>

Stuart, Reginald. **NEW VOICES: IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, JOURNALISM PROJECT CONTINUES TO TRAIN HISPANICS IN WRITING AND REPORTING.** (Diverse Issues in Higher Education, Sept. 15, 201, p14).

As an aspiring multimedia journalist, when Elida Perez was a student at the University of Texas at El Paso in search of a school that would continue challenging her desire to write, she enrolled in a new multimedia, bilingual communications class called Borderzine. Soon, Perez found the class was giving real-time meaning to core courses in history, math, science, justice and language.

NOTE: These articles are accessible through eLibraryUSA. Contact us to get full text version.

E-Books from ebrary**

Latina Legacies

Identity, Biography, and Community



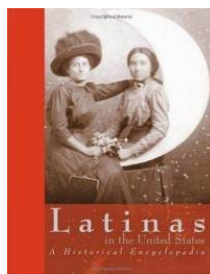
Edited by VICKI L. RUIZ AND VIRGINIA SÁNCHEZ KORROL

LATINA LEGACIES: IDENTITY, BIOGRAPHY, AND COMMUNITY / Ruiz, Vicki

L. Korrol, Virginia Sanchez (Author). Oxford University Press, 2005.

"Latina Legacies is a marvelous addition to the American Studies literature documenting the lives of exemplary Latinas as diverse as Luisa Moreno, Carmen Miranda, and Teresa Urrea. Telling the stories of women of various classes, of hybrid racial identities, of diverse political engagements, and of complex

romantic proclivities, this book is a gold mine of information for teachers and students alike."-- Ramón A. Gutiérrez, University of California, San Diego



LATINAS IN THE UNITED STATES: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA / Ruiz, Vicki L. Korrol, Virginia Sanchez (Author). Indiana University Press, 2006 .

Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia records the contribution of women of Latin American birth or heritage to the economic and cultural development of the United States.

*NOTE: ** ebrary is one of the databases available in eLibraryUSA. Contact us for details.*

Multimedia



Ambassador Arreaga

The influence of Hispanic culture is also reflected in American government. The following videos feature profiles of three American Ambassadors whose Hispanic descendants.

Ambassador Luis Arreaga for Iceland

Find it online at <http://goo.gl/pEZWT>

Ambassador Miguel Diaz for Holy See, Vatican

Find it online at <http://goo.gl/hwgiq>

Ambassador Vilma Martínez for Argentina

Find it online at <http://goo.gl/FGm8G>

E-Publications



A LIVING LEGACY: PRESERVING INTANGIBLE CULTURE. eJournal USA, August 2010

The cultural heritage of the United States is rich, diverse and grounded in the

contributions of many peoples. Many tangible expressions of this cultural patrimony are protected in museums, galleries, and other publicly and privately supported institutions.

Available online at <http://goo.gl/XGBiL>



IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA 2010 / Philip Martin and Elizabeth Midgley. Population Reference Bureau, 2010.

This publication provides a new data and analysis on the economic impacts and policy debates around immigration in the United States.

Available online at: <http://goo.gl/SLvW>



WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES: A GUIDE FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS. USCIS, 2007

This is a comprehensive guide containing practical information to help immigrants settle into everyday life in the United States, as well as basic civics information that introduces new immigrants to the U.S. system of government.

Available online at: <http://goo.gl/Yuj3G>

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Are you looking for more articles on American-Hispanic related topics and/or other subjects?, or you just want to explore the world with your fingertips?

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For details contact IRC at email: ircjakarta@state.gov Phone: 021-350-8467

Contact Info:
Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Address:
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5,
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel.: (021) 350-8467
Fax.: (021) 350-8466
Email: ircjakarta@state.gov
Website:
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

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(by appointment only):
Monday to Friday;
from 07:30 to 16:00
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Check these holidays at:
<http://goo.gl/Y99he>

About the Information Resource Center

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility whose goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, covering such topics as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues. Three professionally-trained reference specialists will help you to retrieve needed-information quickly, conveniently, and free of charge.

The IRC collection includes a collection of reference titles, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online commercial-databases. For details on reference and periodical collections, please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>.

For all IRC information products, including this info package are available online at:
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct.html>

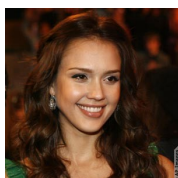
Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal research assistance.

This information package is compiled by the IRC in commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month, on September 15—October 15, 2011

Disclaimer: Books, articles, reports and websites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep the IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States in particular and worldwide in general. These items represented the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessary reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Prominent Hispanics in America

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Jessica Alba

Among many prominent Hispanics in American film and television today are Jessica Alba, Cameron Diaz, America Ferrera, Andy Garcia, Salma Hayek, John Leguizamo, Eva Longoria

Parker, Eva Mendez, Martin Sheen, Jimmy Smits, Benicio del Toro, comedian George Lopez and director Robert Rodriguez.



Junot Diaz

A number of visual artists and writers have sought to capture the Hispanic-American experience, including contemporary painters Soraida Martinez, John Valadez, Frank Romero and Arnaldo Roche, and sculptor Richard Serra

Two Hispanics have won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction: Oscar Hijuelos in 1990 and Junot Diaz in 2008. Many other Hispanic writers have achieved distinction in the United States, such

as Isabel Allende, Julia Alvarez, Daniel Alarcon, Sandra Cisneros and Cristina Garcia.

Major Hispanic-American figures in the fashion industry include Isabel Toledo and Narciso Rodriguez, who have designed clothes for first lady Michelle Obama.

SPORTS



Oscar De La Hoya

Many Latinos have become U.S. sports heroes, like baseball players Nomar Garciaparra, Pedro Martinez, David Ortiz, Albert Pujols, Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez. More than 25 percent of players in Major League Baseball (MLB) are from Latin American countries.

The Hispanic influence is apparent in other sports, notably football (called soccer in the United States). The game's growing popularity in the United States is at least partly attributable to the infusion of Hispanic immigrants.

There are well-known Hispanic Americans in

other sports, such as Carlos Arroyo (basketball), Oscar de la Hoya (boxing), the late Pancho Gonzalez (tennis), Nancy Lopez (golf), Scott Gomez (hockey), Lisa Fernandez (softball) and Tony Romo (U.S. football).

Source: <http://goo.gl/w82mV>

Did You Know?

- The Freedom Tower was a refugee center for thousands of exiled Cubans, who sought asylum in the United States for a life free on communism. The tower earned its reputation as the "Ellis Island of the South" after Fidel Castro's 1959 rise to power. Read more: <http://goo.gl/vCNj5>
- The Caribbean, South American, and Mexican traditions have long influenced popular music in the United States. Read more: <http://goo.gl/3zblU>

*)Celebrating Hispanic Heritage People, Places and Events on stamps.

Source: <http://goo.gl/uMLD7>